

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Date: April 28, 2011

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No Disappointments at Columbia State Historic Park this Summer! Take a Look!

*Foot Dragoons and a Sarsaparilla Cook-off (Whatever that is?)...
Gold Diggings Encampment and Lunch with Mark Twain...
Plus, a Father's Day Fly-In and a Summer Arts Camp*

If you are looking for a place where you and the family, especially the kids, can hang out this summer, we have it. Below, you will find a line-up of events that go along with the headline above. Do you know what Sarsaparilla is? Nope, it is not misspelled. Webster has a definition, and after looking it up, you might say: I'll take a glass of that and please add some ice cream. So would your kids like that? Read on.

Come stay in one of our historic hotels or our quaint cottages in Columbia State Historic Park on Memorial Day weekend and stay through Sunday, June 5th to enjoy a trip back in time. Beginning on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30th the Columbia Foot Dragoons and the Columbia Grenadine Belles will conduct a **Memorial Day Salute**-- a 20 minute ceremony in the old Veterans section of the Columbia Cemetery. There will be prayers, information on Memorial Day, the Battle Hymn of the Republic and a salute to veterans buried there. For more information call 209/536-1672. And then Thursday through Sunday, June 2nd-5th join us at **Diggings Tent Town 1852**. Over 150 volunteers help recreate this time in history by living the life of a miner, merchant, actor/actress, and more in a gold diggings encampment! School tours are led Thursday and Friday by reservation. This event is sponsored by Columbia State Historic Park and Friends of Columbia SHP. For more information call 209/588-9218.

Join us Saturday, June 11th for a day of music, dancing and frivolity at the **3rd Annual Sarsaparilla Roundup**. The afternoon features contests, including mug slide, horseshoes, spelling bee, etc., and frosty cold sarsaparilla. Beginning at 5 p.m. at the Jack Douglass Saloon enjoy a pasta feed, crowning of the Sarsaparilla King and Queen, sarsaparilla cook-off, songwriters contest for the best sarsaparilla song/jingle, belching contest, and music and dancing sponsored by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce. For more information call 209/536-1672 or visit columbiacalifornia.com.

On Father's Day weekend, June 18th & 19th treat your dad to the **45th Annual Father's Day Fly-In** sponsored by the Columbia Airport. For more information call 209/533-5685. And then the week of June 20th–24th send your 7 to 12 year olds to **Summer Arts Camp**. Children are partnered with professional artists and performers to explore their creative self-expression and appreciation of the arts. Meet each morning in the Solari Garden at the corner of Jackson and Columbia Streets. On Friday, June 24th the merchants of Columbia host a reception for our young artists. This event is hosted by the Central Sierra Arts Council and registration is on a first come/first served basis. Call 209/532-2787 for more information.

Beginning in May and continuing through the summer **Bart's Black Skillet and Mark Twain** join together to offer **Lunch with Mark Twain**. The well-known author and humorist Samuel Langhorne Clemens, known to many as "Mark Twain", returns to Columbia to deliver a lecture on his adventures out West, including mining on the Nevada Comstock, big trouble in San Francisco, pocket mining near Tuttletown, and spinning yarns at Jack Ass Hill in Tuolumne County, presenting Pat Kaunert as Mark Twain. For more information call 209/532-1479 or 209/588-9300. The Columbia City Hotel Restaurant is also continuing their **Dinners with Mark Twain** throughout the month of May on Friday and Saturday evenings, for reservations call 209/532-1479. For room reservations at the historic City or Fallon Hotels or Columbia Cottages visit Reserve America at www.reserveamerica.com or call 800-444-7275, or visit www.briggshospitalityllc.com.

Regularly scheduled programs in the park include tours of the town at 11:00am on Saturdays and Sundays. Gold Rush Days is presented on the second Saturday of each month from 1-4pm. Docents in gold rush attire will be stationed throughout town in several different buildings and on the street to converse with visitors about gold rush life.

Columbia State Historic Park is open daily from 10-5 p.m. and offers a unique blend of museums, displays, town tours, live theater, and shops. A visit to the City Hotel or Fallon Hotel is a glimpse into one of the most fascinating periods of America's history, as well as one of California's finest restorations. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the streets so families can explore the historic setting in safety and comfort. Columbia is central to various Mother Lode and Sierra attractions such as Yosemite National Park, Railtown 1897 State Historic Park, and Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

For more information on any of the above, please contact the park office at (209) 588-9128 or www.parks.ca.gov/columbia.

Columbia State Historic Park, located in Tuolumne County, is designated as a National Historic Landmark District, and has been preserved to tell the story of the towns which arose during the California Gold Rush to serve the needs of miners. California State Parks has restored and continues to preserve over 30 of the original brick buildings along the town's Main Street.

Columbia State Historic Park annually hosts over 400,000 visitors, presents school programs for over 10,000 4th graders, and is a major tourist destination in Tuolumne County. Its many historic-style stores and restaurants are run by over 20 Concessionaires whose businesses, along with park staff and volunteers, help recreate the experience of the California Gold Rush for visitors from around the world.

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